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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1916

POPULAR SCIENCE LECTURES¹

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INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the council in June, 1916, representations were made by the organizing committee of Section L (Educational Science) that much less attention is given to popular lecturing now than was formerly the case; and it was suggested that efforts should be made to promote increased public interest in science by means of such lectures. The council, therefore, appointed a committee representative of all the sections of the association to institute inquiries into this subject and prepare a report upon it. Many local scientific societies, universities, university colleges and similar institutions have organized popular science lectures; and the committee has endeavored to secure the results of the experience obtained, with the object of discovering the elements of success or failure.

A schedule of twelve questions was drawn up and was widely distributed. To prevent misunderstanding, it was pointed out in an explanatory letter that the committee was concerned only with single pioneer lectures for the general public, and not with students' courses, such as are arranged by university extension authorities, the Workers' Educational Association and other organizations.

¹ Report of the Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science consisting of the president and general officers, Professor H. E. Armstrong, Professor W. A. Bone, Sir Edward Brabrook, Professor S. J. Chapman, Professor A. Dendy, Professor R. A. Gregory (hon. sec.), Professor W. D. Halliburton, Dr. H. S. Hele-Shaw, Professor F. Keeble, Mr. G. W. Lamplugh and Dr. E. J. Russell, appointed by the council to consider and report on the popularization of science through public lectures.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.